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November 8, 1999

Na Hoaloha, Welina me ke Aloha Pumehana:

I welcome this opportunity to discuss the reconciliation process with you. Over the past several months, I received a number of inquiries regarding the meaning of reconciliation. What did I mean by "efforts of reconciliation" when I authored the Apology Resolution? My concise response is that reconciliation is a means for healing. Reconciliation is an ongoing process between the federal government and the Native Hawaiian people to resolve a wide array of issues.

P.L. 103-150, the Apology Resolution, was the first step in this process. The United States apologized to the Native Hawaiians for the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii in 1893 and expressed its commitment to acknowledge the ramifications of the overthrow in order to provide a proper foundation for reconciliation between the United States and the Native Hawaiian people. This year in response to my request, Attorney General Reno and Secretary Bruce Babbitt designated officials to represent the Department of Justice and the Department of the Interior in efforts of reconciliation between the federal government and Native Hawaiians. Actual implementation of "efforts of reconciliation" is the next step in this important process of healing.

Mr. John Berry, Assistant Secretary, Policy, Management, and Budget, for the Department of the Interior, and Mr. Mark Van Norman, Director, Office of Tribal Justice, Department of Justice, will come to Hawaii to begin public consultations with Native Hawaiians as part of the reconciliation process. This is a significant step forward for both the federal government and Native Hawaiians.

I have three objectives that I would like to share with you regarding the reconciliation process. The first is to establish permanency to this continuing dialogue. I am working to establish an office within the Department of the Interior to focus on Native Hawaiian issues. The establishment of an office will bring continuity to the federal government's working relationship with Native Hawaiians. My second objective is to help Native Hawaiians and the federal government establish a framework for addressing longstanding issues such as self-determination and ceded lands. My third objective is to take maximum advantage of the time left under the Clinton Administration to focus on actions that will better the social and economic conditions of Native Hawaiians.

Reconciliation efforts were never intended to be unilaterally determined by the federal government. Rather, reconciliation is an evolving, continuing process based on dialogue between the federal government, Native Hawaiians, and Hawaii's Congressional delegation. I cannot emphasize enough the point that reconciliation is a continuing and evolving process, the outcome of which will be determined by Native Hawaiians.

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This is why I have repeatedly stated that reconciliation should not be viewed as one particular issue or a narrowly defined process. Reconciliation is a continuing process that involves the resolution of a multitude of issues. While the reconciliation process may eventually address such issues as reparations, economic empowerment, and self determination, the process should not be limited to specific outcomes or issues. Again, the outcome of the process will be determined by the Native Hawaiian community working together with the federal government.

The magnitude of this process makes it imperative for Native Hawaiians to *imua*, to move forward, and to contribute individually and collectively to meet the challenge of working together to provide a better future for Native Hawaiians. Throughout this process, diversity of views and lively debate are healthy. We must debate, and on occasion, disagree free of rancor. We must listen to and respect one another as we come together as a people to determine our relationship with the federal government. Reconciliation entails a commitment and a shared responsibility on the part of Native Hawaiians and the federal government to improve understanding and provide a better future for Native Hawaiians. We have the wisdom to rise above our differences and to reach a common understanding of what is best for our people.

Mr. Berry and Mr. Van Norman are coming to Hawaii to listen and to learn. The outcome of these public consultations depends largely on what the Native Hawaiian community shares with them. I could not ask for two individuals more willing to listen to the Native Hawaiian community. I am confident that the outcome of these first efforts of reconciliation will be another positive step forward in providing a better future for Native Hawaiians. *Kulia i ka nu'u*. Let us "reach for the best" together.

Aloha pumehana,

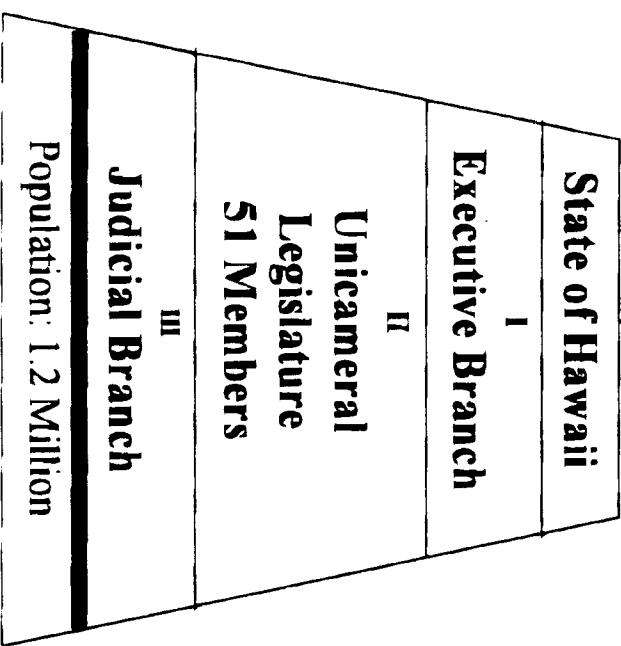


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U.S. Senator

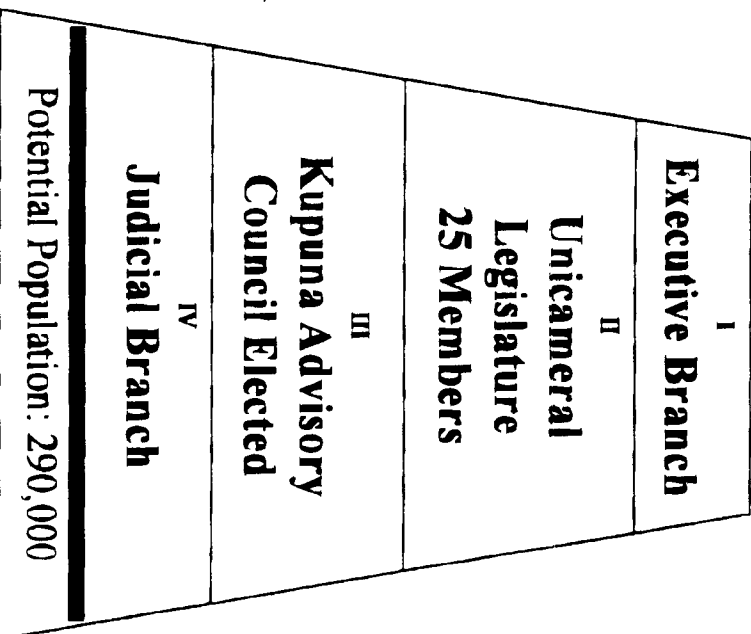
**UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA**

**Major
Sovereign
Nations**

NATION OF HAWAII



**SHARED
POWER
AT THE
CORE**



LAND BASE
3 million acres
Estimated

LAND BASE
1.4 million acres
Estimated

Session: January – April
Fiscal Year Begins July

Session: June – September
Fiscal Year Begins January

What do we need to do today to prepare for tomorrow?

I. DISSOLVE OHA

- State Legislature

II. REPEAL THE 1920 ORGANIC ACT

- U.S. Congress

III. CREATE UNICAMERAL LEGISLATURE

- State Legislature
- Nation of Hawai'i